

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1271657-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 3
Page 10 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 21 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 25 ~ b6; b7C;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
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NNN

INBOX.2 (129)

TEXT:

AL00008 3242240Z

PP HQ BS NK

DE AL

P 202200Z NOV 86

FM SAC, ALBANY (9A-NEW) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (PRIORITY)

SAC, BOSTON (9A-NEW) (PRIORITY)

SAC, NEWARK (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS

[REDACTED] JOSEPH RALPH MCGINNISS-VICTIM;

POSSIBLE EXTORTION MATTER, OO: BOSTON.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU AND RECEIVING OFFICES,
CAPTIONED MATTER INITIALLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF BUREAU
AGENTS AT THE RUTLAND, VERMONT RESIDENT AGENCY THROUGH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NOVA, A WELL-KNOWN NOVELIST AND CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF
MCGINNISS', WHO IS ALSO A VICTIM IN ALBANY CASE 9A-L369, CAPTIONED
"UNSUB; [REDACTED] NOVA-VICTIM; [REDACTED]
VICTIM; EXTORTION, OO: ALBANY".

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b7C

9A-4375-1

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED MB | FILED MB |
| NOV 20 1986 | |
| FBI-BOSTON | |

C/A

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THE INITIAL REFERENCE TO MCGINNISS WAS FURNISHED BY NOVA
ON NOVEMBER 14, 1986, AND WAS CLARIFIED BY TELEPHONIC CONTACT
WITH MCGINNISS ON NOVEMBER 17, 1986. MCGINNISS, A WHITE MALE
BORN DECEMBER 9, 1942 AT NEW YORK CITY IS THE AUTHOR OF "FATAL
VISION", A BEST SELLING NOVEL PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER, 1983, WITH
THREE MILLION VOLUMES SOLD WORLDWIDE. MCGINNISS' WORK WAS ALSO
THE SUBJECT OF AN NBC PRODUCED MINI SERIES. ALTHOUGH MCGINNISS
SERVES AS A PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR IN THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT,
BENNINGTON COLLEGE, BENNINGTON, VERMONT, HE RESIDES AT 42 SOUTH
STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS, TELEPHONE NUMBER (413) 458-
8628, AND THEREFORE THE FOLLOWING IS SET FORTH FOR THE INVESTI-
GATIVE ASSISTANCE OF BOSTON.

MCGINNISS' RECENT LITERARY EFFORTS INVOLVE A BOOK DETAILING
THE LIFE OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO WAS CONVICTED OF [REDACTED]

ACCORDING TO MCGINNISS, [REDACTED] WAS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED IN THE
[REDACTED] BUSINESS AND BASED UPON [REDACTED]

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9A-4375-1
MB MB

RESEARCH FOR THE NEW BOOK INVOLVED MCGINNISS ESTABLISHING A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH [REDACTED] AN ASSISTANT COUNTY PROSCUTOR WITH THE OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PROSECUTORS OFFICE. NBC IS NEGOTIATING WITH MCGINNISS'S AGENT IN NEW YORK CITY TO PRODUCE A MINI SERIES ON HIS NEW BOOK.

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THE POTENTIAL EXTORTION OF MCGINNISS RELATES TO A SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS AND THE RECEIPT OF A LETTER AT MCGINNISS' WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENCE DURING OCTOBER, 1986.

THE INTITAL TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED BY MCGINNISS OCCURRED DURING MID-OCTOBER, 1986 WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS [REDACTED] TELEPHOND MCGINNISS TO ADVISE [REDACTED] HAD RECENTLY ACQUIRED RIGHTS TO [REDACTED] STORY AND MCGINNISS SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH [REDACTED] FOR THESE RIGHTS. MCGINNISS REFUSED TO CONSIDER [REDACTED] ATTEMPT AND WAS ADVISED "I'M SORRY OUR PATHS WILL CROSS IN A NEGATIVE WAY".

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DURING LATER OCTOER, 1986, MCGINNISS RECEIVED A SECOND TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WHO MADE REFERENCE TO [REDACTED] PREVIOUS TELEPHONE CALL AND THEN ADVISED MCGINNISS THAT HE WAS CONCERNED RELATIVE TO THE

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7A 4375 - 1
MB M

9A-NEW, PAGE FOUR, UNCLAS

OSTENSIVE DIRECTION WHICH MCGINNISS'S BOOK WAS TAKING, SINCE

[REDACTED] ALLEGEDLY POSSESSED INFORMATION FAVORABLY TO [REDACTED]

WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN MCGINNISS' NEW BOOK. MCGINNISS

AGAIN REFUSED TO HAVE ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE EFFORT AND

[REDACTED] STATED "OUR PATHS ARE GONNA PASS SOMEWHERE DOWN THE

ROAD. SORR IT HAS TO BE IN A NEGATIVE WAY."

MCGINNISS NEXT RECEIVED A LETTER ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY

[REDACTED] WHICH WAS DATED OCTOBER 17, 1986, AND MADE REFERENCE

TO THE PREVIOUS TELEPHONE CALL. IN THE LETTER [REDACTED] AGAIN

ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE MCGINNISS. [REDACTED] FURNISHED HIS

RESIDENCE ADDRESS AS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED] THE LETTER INCLUDED

A TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR [REDACTED] AS [REDACTED]

ON NOVEMBER 12, 1986, MCGINNISS SPOKE WITH [REDACTED] AT

THE OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY'S PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND WAS ADVISED

SUBSEQUENT CONTACT WITH THE ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PROSECUTOR'S

OFFICE DETERMINED AN INDIVIDUAL BY THE NAME OF [REDACTED]

WAS RECENTLY RELEASED FROM PRISON; WAS A SUSPECT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS DESCRIBED TO MCGINNISS AS [REDACTED]

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1A 4175
175 11

9LA-NEW, PAGE FIVE, UNCLAS

THE RECEIPT OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ALARMED
MCGINNISS, WHICH IN TURN PROMPTED HIS CONTACT WITH BUREAU AGENTS.

THE ABOVE IS FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU FOR INFORMATION VALUE
BASED UPON MCGINNISS'S NOTORIETY.

BOSTON DIVISION

AT WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS:

ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH MCGINNIS TO SECURE THE BUREAU'S INTEREST
RELATIVE TO A OTENTIAL VIOLATION OF THE EXTORTION STATUTE.

NEWARK DIVISION

AT BELVILLE, NEW JERSEY:

DEVELOPE APPROPRIATE DESCRETE BACKGROUND RELATIVE TO [REDACTED]
AND [REDACTED] AND FURNISH SAME TO BOSTON. SECURE DESCRIPTIVE DATA TO
THE ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND SUBMIT THE
APPROPRIATE IDENT DIVISION RECORD REQUESTS (FD-9).

BT

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10 / 25
ad.

Field File No. _____

OO and File No. 9A-4375-1A1

Date Received 12/5/86

From _____

By _____
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description: _____

① 7D-472 Consensual Monitoring
Form signed by _____

b6
b7C

Field File No. _____

Serial # of Originating Document _____

OO and File No. BS 9A-4375-1A2

Date Received 11/8/87 + 11/9/87

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By SA [Redacted] FBI, NYO
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: [Redacted]

Confidential

OO: BS

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

[Redacted]

11/8/87

11/9/87

11/8/87

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b6
b7C

1/8/87

b6
b7C

Oct 17/1986 -

ask f atty - need to see he -
concerned f. Mc

Very resp.

owned rights to [redacted] mentioned NBC

+ may have a contract.

Told he to believe he was in a agreement with [redacted]

I found he in has contract no manuscript
may have exculpatory info. - if you have

if you [redacted]

b6
b7C

called [redacted] + told story -

no fed back

- Very exp't that if he considered f. book

No business card -

[redacted]

② Disrupt - w/m -



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b7C

- He said he to look at Peggy's going his marriage -

- She wouldn't look at it -

- Very Respectful.

- 1ST Inquiry was he didn't want the to publish the book

- She said anyone is free to right the book

Prove to this.

She recalls she got a call for a editor at G.P

Joe he is upset - Some one is trying to stop books.

Didn't say he requested anyone but controlled the rights to



Story -

b6
b7C

①

1/9/87

b6
b7C

On 9/29/86 -

- Secy keeps a phone log -

has notes for call -

may have called 2nd time (no rec)

at 11²⁰_A -

called left # + placed call back

- Tel 201- 429- 7770 -

- no prior knowledge re McGinnis threat.

mess: connects with Joe Mc.

He reports,

- [redacted] ^{no} had an agent at [redacted]

1st he feels gets into [redacted] / store

intended to do a book -

had found the request by McGinnis

Presented this as he rep [redacted]

- Suggested we had no right (legal) to do back

{ He sent letter to [redacted] / NBC to notify
they ~~should~~ had no right to write back

b6
b7C

Response: if you had agent - no Restricti-

Raw:

"We ~~are~~ certainly not going to let Jack

publish this book" —

* Mistake behind he had legal rts -

[redacted] → What are you going to do about this.

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R: "We'll do what we have to do"

Voice:

Didn't sound educated, friendly,

Language

Changes mean how publish, only for clients
do - didn't treat it as a threat

3

- Seen like a street person.
- new threding -
- not knowledgeable of the library a legal arena

→ never rec'd ✓

entry on Sec tel log - rec call for [redacted]

on Oct 1, 1986 - left as:

left [redacted]

man -

b6
b7C

- didn't return call -

*

11/8/87

b6
b7C

Sept 1986 -

rec. call. for pub -

wanted re MacGuns Book -

info of great interest + wanted to get stuck
w/ the Gunners.

b6
b7C

Delayed call to

Oct 17 -- rec called f
-- didn't show --

file
for McGuinness

b6
b7C

11

Came by 10/17 Said he
owned rights from [redacted]
[redacted] had exculpatory
info. I suggested he contact
McGuinness directly &
told [redacted] abt
call.

12/1 McGuinness called &
asked about visit. Said FBI
was investigating because of
threats made to NBC and
Asnt

Fa

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b7C

1/8/87

Field File No. _____

OO and File No. 9A-4375 | A(3)

Date Received 6/9/87

From _____

By _____

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description: _____

Consensual Monitoring

7D-472

b6
b7C

Field File No. _____
OO and File No. 9A - 4375 1A (4)
Date Received 7/28/87

From _____

By _____

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

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b6
b7C

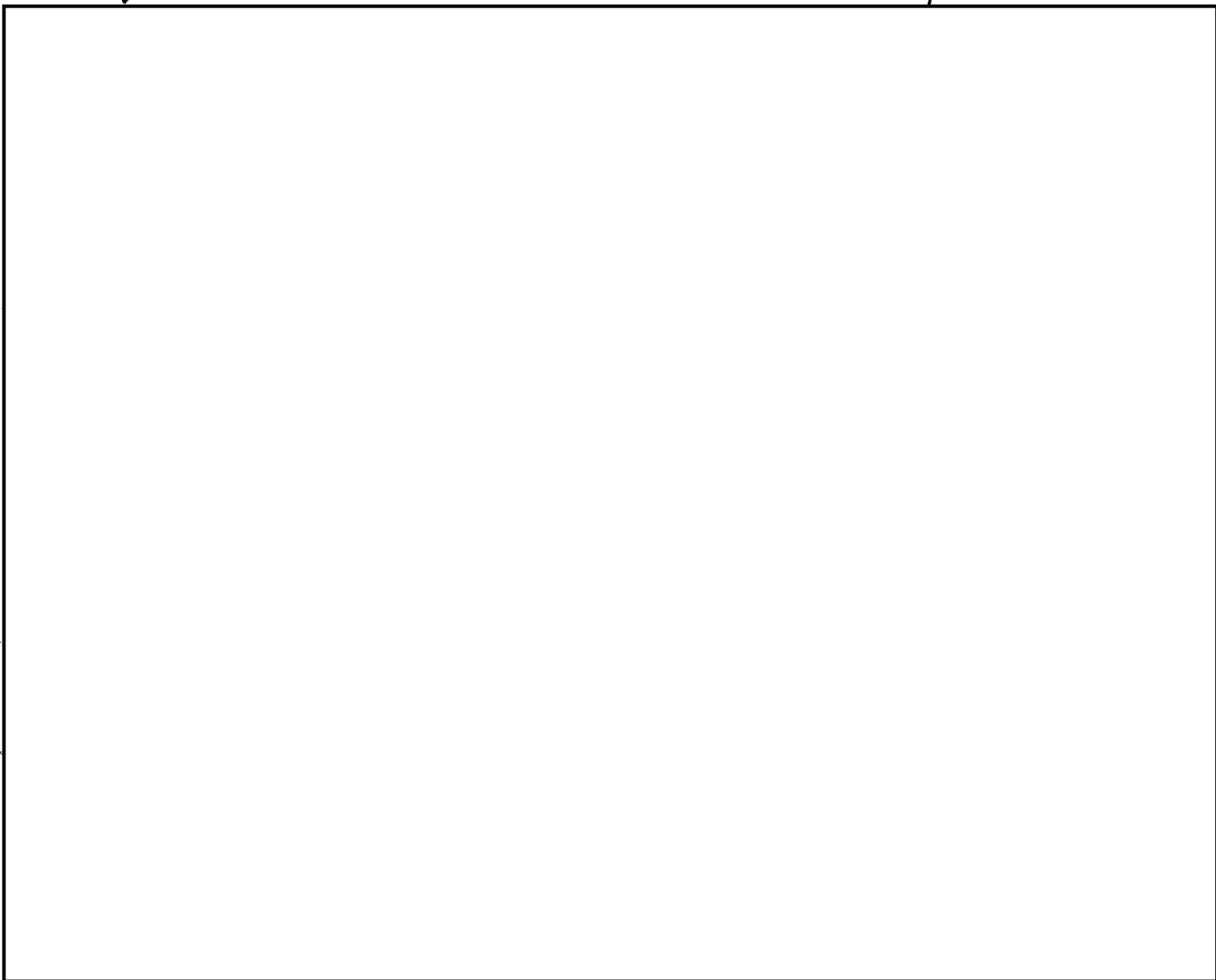


7/28/87

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b7C

At Williamstown, Mass.

Approx. 8⁰⁰ a.m., Thurs last — 7/23/87



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b7C

Executed consensual form —

Field File No. _____

OO and File No. 9A-4375 1A(5)

Date Received _____

From _____

By _____

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Yes

☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description: _____

Executed FD-472, 7/28/87

g

[Redacted Signature Box]

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b6
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Field File No. _____

Serial # of Originating Document _____

OO and File No. BS 9A-4375 1A (6)

Date Received _____

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By _____
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of



b6
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12-22-86

b6
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NBC Productions
Director of Movies for TV

A while ago (mid-Sep) ^{according to Joe McInnes}
[redacted] called

She explained not working on
mini-series - She would
find out & let him know
He was mad & said he had
the rights to the story of
the man in prison
Call Term.

w/ a wk talked again & said

[redacted] of Mini-series

c1

[redacted] told [redacted] that mini-series was
being done. [redacted] called.

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b7C

& said she'd take care of
it - tell Joe McInnes & [redacted]

[redacted] of project.

(2)

They didn't call until 3-4 wks ago when they got calls.

Call - We own the rts - you better watch it - enough of a threat to wound ^{more than usual} ~~that~~ Represented [redacted]

Have call-back # w/ [redacted] area code - She called back &

b6
b7C

said project was being done & up to publishing company not up to ind. I don't remember response.

May have given [redacted] names but don't remember [redacted]

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b7C

Sounded like stereo-typed voice from N.S.

Field File No. NY 9A-9612-1A1

Serial # of Originating Document _____

OO and File No. BS 9A-4375 1A7

Date Received 1/8/87

From N/A
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By (City and State)
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☒ Yes ☐ No

Title

OO: BS

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

1/8/87
9/87
1/8/87
Sent to Boston 2/24/87

"AUTOMATED RECORD"

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C-4
INBOX.2 (|1338)

TEXT:

NK0016 3252346

RR HQ BS

DE NK

R 3252346Z NOV 86

FM NEWARK (9A-3999) (P) (C-1)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (ROUTINE)

BOSTON (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS

[REDACTED] JOSEPH RALPH MCGINNIS-VICTIM; POSSIBLE

EXTORTION MATTER; OO: BOSTON

RE: ALBANY TELETYPE TO BUREAU, NOVEMBER 20, 1986.

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RECORDS OF THE NEW JERSEY BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY REFLECT
TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED] TO BE UNASSIGNED. THE SUBSCRIBER
TO (201) 429-7770 IS RUG CLEANERS, 23 WILLET STREET, BLOOMFIELD,
NJ.

NEW JERSEY DMV RECORDS REFLECT A [REDACTED] BORN

[REDACTED] RESIDENCE [REDACTED]

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b7C

STATE AND FEDERAL CCH CHECKS NEGATIVE RE [REDACTED]

NEWARK UNABLE TO IDENTITY SUBJECT [REDACTED] THROUGH DMV CHECKS.

| INDICES SEARCHED | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOIMS | <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE | <input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SA | <input type="checkbox"/> SA |
| INITIALS: <i>LS</i> | INITIALS: |

9A-4375-2

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| SEARCHED..... | INDEXED..... |
| SERIALIZED <i>MB</i> | FILED..... |
| NOV 21 1986 | |
| FBI-BOSTON | |

Spangfield

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PAGE TWO, 9A-3999, UNCLAS

NEWARK INDICES CONTAIN SEVERAL POSSIBLE REFERENCES RE SUBJECTS;
HOWEVER THESE ARE UNABLE FOR REVIEW AT PRESENT TIME.

BT

81

1A-3999-2
MB

1A-3999-2

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 12/8/86

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (9A-4375) (P) (SPRINGFIELD RA) (C-4)

[REDACTED]
 JOSEPH RALPH MCGINNISS-VICTIM;
 POSSIBLE EXTORTION MATTER;
 (OO:BS)

ReALtel to Bu, 11/20/86; and Newark tel to BS,
 11/22/86.

Enclosed for receiving offices are the following
 xeroxed documents:

1. Letter addressed to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]

2. Letter addressed to JOE MCGINNISS from [REDACTED]

3. Letter "Agreement" between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

4. A letter addressed to [REDACTED]
 and a 17 page "Treatment" MCGINNISS submitted to [REDACTED]

For the information of those Divisions not in receipt
 of above referenced communications, the following is submitted
 for background purposes:

2-Bureau
 2-New York
 2-Los Angeles
 2-New Orleans
 2-Newark (9A-3999)
 1-Albany (Information)
 2-Boston

MJS:lsg
 (13) *3*

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED ms

INDEXED

FILED

9A-4375-3

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Victim MCGINNISS is a white male, DOB: 12/9/42, POB: New York City, who is author of "Fatal Vision", a best selling novel published in September, 1983, enjoying a circulation of more than three million volumns sold worldwide. The MCGINNISS manuscript was also sold to NBC as a T.V. mini-series. MCGINNISS currently resides at 42 South Street, Williamstown, Massachusetts, telephone 413-458-8628 and is also employed in the Literature Department as a part-time instructor at BENNINGTON COLLEGE, Bennington, Vermont.

MCGINNISS' recent literary efforts involve a book detailing the life of [redacted] who was convicted of [redacted]. According to MCGINNISS, [redacted] was previously employed in the [redacted] business and based upon [redacted]

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[redacted] Research for the new book involved MCGINNISS establishing a close working relationship with [redacted] an Assistant County Prosecutor with the OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE. NBC is negotiating with MCGINNISS' agent in New York City to produce a mini-series on his new book.

The potential extortion of MCGINNISS relates to a series of telephone calls and the receipt of a letter at MCGINNISS' Williamstown, Massachusetts residence during October, 1986.

The initial telephone call received by MCGINNISS occurred during mid-October, 1986, when an individual who identified himself as [redacted] telephoned MCGINNISS to advise [redacted] had recently acquired rights to [redacted] story and MCGINNISS should negotiate with [redacted] for these rights. MCGINNISS refused to consider [redacted] attempt and was advised "I'm sorry our paths will cross in a negative way."

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During later October, 1986, MCGINNISS received a second telephone call from an individual identifying himself as [redacted] who made reference to [redacted] previous telephone call and then advised MCGINNISS that he was concerned relative to the ostensive direction which MCGINNISS' book was taking, since [redacted] allegedly possessed information favorably to [redacted]

which should be included in McGINNISS' new book. McGINNISS again refused to have any involvement in the effort and [] stated "our paths are gonna pass somewhere down the road. Sorry it has to be in a negative way."

McGINNISS next received a letter allegedly written by [] which was dated October 17, 1986, and made reference to the previous telephone call. In the letter, [] again attempted to influence McGINNISS. [] furnished his residence address as [] telephone []. The letter included a telephone number for [] as [].

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On 12/12/86, McGINNISS spoke with [] at the OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE and was advised subsequent contact with the ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE determined an individual by the name of [] was recently released from prison: was a suspect [].

[] was described to McGINNISS as [].

On 11/28/86, McGINNISS was contacted by Bureau Agent at his residence whereupon he furnished the following additional information:

McGINNISS advised as opposed to his book "Fatal Vision" in which his primary focus is upon [] McGINNISS intends to develop not only the circumstances involving [] arranging for [] but further intends to develop a myriad of information relating to a number of individuals within a socio/political framework that may possibly be influenced by organized crime.

McGINNISS advised he is currently negotiating with NBC, through his Agent [], telephone [], regarding a "mini-series" production relative to this book. McGINNISS advised he was recently contacted by [] for NBC Burbank, California, advising him one of her employee's, [] telephone [] received a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as [] who spoke to her in a very threatening voice stating, "You can't go ahead and do this movie, if you do this, you'll be very sorry."

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McGINNISS advised he was most concerned about the fact that either [] and [] or individuals representing themselves as one of these individuals have contacted him telephonically, have written to him; have contacted his agent's attorney, [] have contacted his publisher's attorney, [] G.P. PUTNAM PUBLISHING COMPANY, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, New York; and have also contacted NBC in an attempt to influence the publication of the book. McGINNISS stated during his initial conversation with [] and subsequent conversation with [] it was his impression [] were representing themselves as writers possessing information that could be most helpful to [] and his anticipated appeal, however, McGINNISS stated based on all that has happened in the last month and a half, he is quite concerned as to the direction this entire matter is taking.

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In suggesting a motive for this activity, McGINNISS stated the issue is very complex, however, some of the most significant considerations in the opinion of McGINNISS is the fact [] was picked up by the authorities shortly after the [] whereupon she advised the authorities not only did [] confide in her the facts, [] she also furnished [] with the name of a man named [] who may be able to assist him in this endeavor. McGINNISS advised within two (2) weeks [] was dismissed as suspect and was never charged in the murder. McGINNISS is of the strong opinion this occurred because of her former affair with an individual by the name of [] the [] McGINNISS advised [] is very concerned about the publication in its current form.

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McGINNISS advised throughout the trial, [] lived at [] home with [] with the [] of an individual named [] the person hired by [] to [] McGINNISS stated [] is an extremely emotional type and appeared dramatically affected by the conviction of her brother.

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b7C

Further, McGINNISS stated [] met an individual by the name of [] at a next door neighbor's party, [] a known "wise guy" according

to MCGINNISS. MCGINNISS advised it was [] who made the arrangements for [] to meet [] which ultimately led to the meeting with [] whereupon they planned [] MCGINNISS added [] pled guilty, [] was convicted and [] was found not guilty []

MCGINNISS stated there are any number of people who do not wish to see this book in publication.

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On 12/2/86, the above related facts were presented to AUSA [] Springfield, Massachusetts, whereupon he authorized a consensual monitoring device be placed on [] phone. Further, [] requested a number of interviews be conducted, so set out in Division leads.

On 12/5/86, SAC authority requested/granted to install monitoring device [] phone instrument.

On 12/5/86, Bureau Agent acquired approval from []

LEADS

It is requested all receiving offices expeditiously attempt to conduct requested interviews per request of AUSA [] in an effort to resolve issue of possible criminality in this matter.

NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Attempt to interview Attorney [] of MORTON L. JANKLOW ASSOCIATES, INC., 598 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022, telephone 212-421-1700, regarding his conversation with a [] on 9/29/86.

b6
b7C

Attempt to interview Attorney [] of G.P. PUTNAM PUBLISHING COMPANY, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, New

BS 9A-4375

York, regarding her conversation with a [] on 10/17/86.

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b7C

LOS ANGELES DIVISION

AT BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

Attempt to interview [] NBC Mini-Series Productions, telephone 818-840-4597 regarding her conversation with a [] specific date unknown.

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b7C

NEW ORLEANS

AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Attempt to develop background data regarding [] and [] and through established intelligence base attempt to develop any information regarding above individuals subsequent to the trial. New Orleans note MCGINNISS advised [] has already been released from custody based on his plea arrangement with the NEW JERSEY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.

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b7C

NEWARK DIVISION

AT RED BANK, NEW JERSEY

Will continue efforts to attempt to fully identify [] and []

b6
b7C

April 24, 1986

Dear []:

b6
b7C

Here it is, with some names changed. I've added a few touches of texture and detail so you may want to scan it again.

I could go into great detail about what will happen with the story from this point forward, but maybe it's better to see what the reaction is to this. Suffice it to say, things get crazier and crazier, winding up with [] (who drove north in their [] pickup truck), living in the [] house, taking care of the [] during the trial.

The big positive force in the story, not mentioned in the treatment at all, is [] the assistant prosecutor who finally gets to try the case. He is an unreconstructed blue collar street kid [] who lives []

b6
b7C

[] He despises the Country Club set for its pretensions and treats [] with open contempt. He stands for true morality and family values, in opposition to the phoniness and hypocrisy personified by []

Really, [] he is so colorful and hard-nosed, nobody would believe him if I made him up. When he gets [] on the stand at trial and blisters him with questions about [] in the weeks after [] while []

[] it's strong stuff. From the start I worried that there wasn't any good guy in this story. [] has taken care of that.

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I could give you ten pages just on his character and personality, but won't for now. But he'll wind up as the star of the show: [] from [] bringing the Country Club to its knees and sending [] (who had once []

Done right, this whole thing will read as if Elmore Leonard had written Peyton Place. Except it's true.

RECEIVED

APR 28 1986

M. U. J.

Thanks for your quick response -

Joe

P.S. One more note about [redacted] she lost her job, match, at [redacted]

Then she started [redacted] for a company called [redacted]. She and [redacted] moved to a cozy little condo on the beach and would make up new jingles every week to play on their answering machine. During the week she testified at trial (I know this is unbelievable but I swear it is true--I dialed the number myself) their jingle, recited in unison, began:

[redacted]

[redacted] if I could make up stuff like this I could live in the Swiss Alps and just mail it in once a year.

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TOMS RIVER

Joe McGinnis

April 24, 1986

You can tell you're getting close to Toms River when the FM stations you set in the city begin to fade from your car radio. Sixty miles down the Garden State Parkway from New York. Or 60 miles due east from Philadelphia by two-lane road, lined with billboards for retirement communities: Leisure Village. Holiday City. Mystic Shores. It looks like the elephants' burying ground. But it's only fifty miles north of the Atlantic City gambling casinos.

For 200 years Toms River was just a sleepy trading post at the edge of the Pine Barrens. Then developers swept across the marshlands like Hitler's army, throwing up the cheapest tract housing in the state. The population doubled, then doubled again. Most of the new arrivals were either senior citizens looking for a cheap place to retire or young couples fleeing the crime and high prices to the north. In the 1970s, Ocean County, New Jersey, of which Toms River was the seat, grew faster than Orange County, California.

If you were in business in Toms River during those years you didn't have to be a genius to make money. A lot of people got rich who never had been rich before. And because they were rich they started thinking they must be smart. They worked hard at stamping out their blue collar roots. A lot of Cadillacs were bought, a lot of wives drove all the way to Short Hills to shop at Bloomingdale's, and a lot of back yards found room for swimming pools even though the ocean was less than ten miles away.

The town was not much to look at, with a 7-11 dominating the main intersection, but by 1984 Toms River was the kind of place that had changed the name of Long Swamp to Brookside in order to improve property values and where the Country Club members took themselves seriously even though they only had a nine-hole golf course to play on and even though they had only each other to look at on Saturday night.

They were middle-aged and restless and bored. Too far from the cities to be hip but not far enough away to be oblivious. They watched "Lifestyles of The Rich and Famous" and felt that they were missing out on something.

Cocaine livened things up. So did the casinos. So did spending the night with a spouse who was not your own. They laughed when they heard their town called Knott's Landing or Peyton Place. Everything's okay, they told themselves, no harm done. Just a little fun, we're all grown-ups, nobody gets hurt.

Until the night in September of 1984 when Maria Marshall got killed.

*

*

*

[redacted] nothing irked him more than to have someone
call him [redacted] was a [redacted]

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b7C

[redacted]

Even before the Atlantic City casinos opened up, he was
spending more than he earned. There was the Cadillac and the
station wagon and the new house [redacted] with the pool and
solarium. There was the condo [redacted] and the boat and the
Mustang [redacted] and the new Jeep [redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted] There were ski
trips and video cameras and jewelry and new clothes and furs.
Even in Toms River, where everyone worked hard at pretending to
be something which they weren't, [redacted] were considered
ostentatious.

At first, the casinos were just one more place to look good. It meant a lot to [] and Maria to be recognized, pointed out, talked about. When the headwaiter at Harrah's remembered his name it was the highlight of [] year. He only started gambling for higher stakes because you had to if you wanted preferential treatment. To be comped at the best restaurants, to get the best tickets for the shows, you had to put money on the table. And this was a guy to whom it really mattered. This was the way [] defined himself. And he was willing to pay for the bowing and scraping, even with money he didn't have.

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And then he []

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She had moved to Toms River in [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (This was back before development, when there was only one high school in town).

[REDACTED] which [REDACTED] was not invited to join. They were all still in town, 25 years later, and [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] to get even. Or maybe just to rebel against the stifling atmosphere of the small New Jersey town.

She had also [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at the Country Club, and even with some who were considered pretty full. There was [REDACTED] who was now

[REDACTED] there was [REDACTED] who owned the

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[REDACTED] where all those mentioned above gathered [REDACTED] to compare notes and make deals and be seen.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On her [] birthday, her husband [] who worked

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[] arranged a surprise
party [] He hired a couple of

[] It was the wildest party anybody in Toms River had
ever been seen. So wild that []

[] did not attend, although []

[] did, as did [] [] had it videotaped. It
even made the society page of the Asbury Park Press.

But that was [] Fun Fun Fun. She may have had a
mundane job-- []

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[] --but she did a lot of things Maria Marshall,
the Catholic doctor's daughter from an old Polish neighborhood in
Philadelphia, would never do. Though how she ever got bored
enough to start doing them with [] was something nobody
in Toms River could understand. Maybe, after having lived
across the street from [] for [] years, she looked
upon him as the only challenge left in town. Or maybe Maria,
blonde and aloof, reminded her of []

[]

They would meet [redacted]

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But [redacted] was spending more time in [redacted] every month.

He had [redacted] after a [redacted] he
liked to make, and he had [redacted]

[redacted] (What fun it was at the Country Club the
night [redacted])

[redacted] His two eldest [redacted]

[redacted] He was [redacted]

[redacted] He bailed out of [redacted] He passed up a
chance to [redacted] He [redacted]

[redacted] That bought some time,
but the problem remained. What made it worse was he now knew he
couldn't live without [redacted] He wanted them to [redacted]

[redacted] At least as far as [redacted] where they could [redacted]
[redacted]

b6
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But that would cost. [redacted] tastes were not only more exotic than [redacted] but more expensive. She might move out on [redacted] just for the fun of causing another scandal at the Club.

But [redacted] was not destined for [redacted]

[redacted]
all her life. Paris amused her, and Rio was fun, and she'd had a great time [redacted] [redacted] knew that somehow he would have to score big.

There was no way he could afford [redacted] Besides, [redacted]

[redacted] She knew about [redacted]

[redacted] but

appearances meant as much to her as they did to him. This was a woman who used to put on jewelry and makeup to take her kids out to the school bus in the morning. You'd see her pushing a cart at the Super Food Town dressed as if she'd just come from Henri Bendel. To Maria, looking bad was at least a crime if not a sin. And nothing looked worse, in Toms River, (where everyone secretly feared it could happen to them) than to be a 42-year old wife whose husband had just [redacted]

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But what if something serious were to happen to Maria?

[] was an []

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He had even had a lot of [] He thought about this. He thought about it a lot. As he thought, he began to

One afternoon he even mentioned it [] As a joke.

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Sort of. Just asking her if she knew anybody who []

[] Pillow talk, that's all it was, his lawyer would later say at the trial.

She did, of course. In Toms River [] knew everybody there was to know. [] was the name she mentioned.

*

*

*

[redacted] real name was [redacted]
[redacted] lived
next door to a man named [redacted] who owned most [redacted]
[redacted] including those
on [redacted] This was part of the thrill
of living in Toms River: having a neighbor who was rumored to be
in the Mob.

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[redacted] and [redacted] had never been friends, but [redacted]
[redacted] and [redacted] had done business together on numerous
occasions and had many acquaintances in common. Like Sweet Lips
Cicatelli, Sr., who had been killed with the golf clubs. He was a
[redacted] In many ways, despite its growth, Toms
River was still just your basic small town. People knew people
and eventually somebody would know somebody who could get
something done.

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So [redacted] were invited to the graduation
party that [redacted] was throwing for [redacted]
[redacted] not far [redacted]
[redacted]

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It was on a Saturday afternoon toward the end of May. []

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b7C

[] arrived late (being late was part of [] style) and all the seats at the tables seemed to be taken. But there happened to be two seats available at the bar. And the one [] [] took happened to be next to a seat occupied by a man named [] --an old friend of the [] his parents used to own a [] who had just happened to be invited to their [] party and who had just happened to travel [] and who just happened to fall into conversation with [] a man who was having []

What [] said that [] said was that he wanted somebody to "investigate" [] Just an average conversation with a stranger at a bar at a neighbor's [] party [] ("What else was there to talk about?" [] said later. "Asparagus?")

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[] knew somebody in [] who occasionally did investigative work. As the party wore on, he danced with [] a couple of times. A lovely lady, he remembered clearly. But he told [] to call him at [] [] where he worked. And [] did. He called [] times over the next [] weeks. (At his trial [] would say he had been trying to sell [])

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The man [] knew was named [] He was
a [] who []
and [] and considered himself an entrepreneur.
In his spare time he did [] and []

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b7C

[] wired [] to [] [] flew to
[] in June and [] The
first money had come pretty easy and [] was hoping to
get more. He had never been to [] before and figured
maybe people there were rich and stupid.

[] arrived, wearing his usual []
[] He liked to pretend he was a [] He
handed [] another [] in crisp new bills.
He seemed to be nervous and in a hurry. After fifteen minutes he
told [] that what he really wanted was not to []
[]

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b7C

"What do you mean?" [] said. The way they spoke up
here seemed almost like a foreign language and [] wanted
to be certain he understood.

"I mean: [] said.

b6
b7C

[] explained that that would cost a little more.
Then he asked how [] "How about
[] said.

But even a guy like [] couldn't always get what he wanted right away. It didn't happen until the [] [] when [] promised [] upon completion, came [] who had done that sort of thing before.

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By then, [] had given up trying to [] out of it [] [] and was more interested in showing [] [] down the road.

And by then [] having enjoyed [] [] had taken [] []

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b7C

[] was back [] and [] [] had left for [] So only [] would have []

[redacted] who knew he was [redacted]
tried for one last time to [redacted] invoking the

b6
b7C

[redacted]

[redacted] said. [redacted]
[redacted]

This conversation, too, took place at [redacted]
[redacted] fixed [redacted] with a withering stare. Speaking through
clenched teeth in his very best imitation of a WASP, [redacted]
explained that he was [redacted]
[redacted]

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[redacted] said.
[redacted]

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b7C

[REDACTED]

She had been confiding in friends that she was worried, that [REDACTED] was acting strangely, that she didn't know what he might do next. But appearances were everything to her Toms River crowd, so she put on her bracelets and necklace and earrings, as she did every Thursday night, and went to the casino to see and to be seen. [REDACTED] the maitre d', presented her with a long stemmed red rose, as was his custom. And, as was her custom, she fell asleep on the front seat with her head in her husband's lap. She planned to be up at 6:30, to make breakfast for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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b7C

[redacted] story was that [redacted]

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b7C

[redacted]

But the first cops at the scene saw [redacted]

[redacted] and knew that

[redacted] story could not be true. And by ten o'clock the next morning, the private detective Maria had hired to tail her husband came forward with the whole story about [redacted]. And by the middle of the following week the prosecutor's office had learned of the insurance. And by the end of the week they had acquired the telephone records that showed the [redacted] calls.

And [redacted] no longer quite so confident, asked [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] to represent him. And [redacted] with much to lose if things went badly, agreed. (He was already lying awake nights, imagining the headlines: [redacted])

[redacted] He was also the man who [redacted]

[redacted]

And [redacted] who had been appointed to his position by [redacted] before, and who had been anticipating, with some justification, for the past year, that any day now [redacted] tried to decide what to do next.

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And [] tried to explain []

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b7C

[] and the Country Club gossiped,
and the Hobnob Lounge hummed, and the three teenaged sons of []
and Maria Marshall wondered whether []

Sometimes, even in a small town in the middle of New
Jersey, life gets complicated.

Morton L. Janklow Associates, Inc

Literary Agents
598 Madison Ave. New York, N.Y. 10022
212/421-1700
Cable: Jankraun Telex: 235272

November 4, 1986



Dear



We are the literary agents for Joe McGinniss. Mr. McGinniss has asked us to respond to your letter to him dated October 17, 1986. Mr. McGinniss is not interested in meeting with you, talking to you further or seeing or making any use whatsoever of your research. We thank you for your interest but there is simply nothing further to be discussed.

Sincerely,



BA/rjg
cc: Mr. Joe McGinniss

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b6
b7C

Mr. Joe McGinniss
42 South Street
Williams, Mass. 11267

October 17, 1986

Dear Joe:

As an after-thought of our conversation today, I felt it was important to write you and let you know, more specifically on just how sincere I am. My proposal can only benefit you, and not harm you in any way.

I have already mentioned to you, I have control over [] story, I've enclosed a copy of our agreement, for you to see for yourself why he gave me those rights. I realize that, "it's a free country, and I may do whatever I please", but Joe, you know as well as I do, perhaps even better than I do, that with this story there will be only one chance at it. The difference between you and I, is that, "you have the distribution and the publisher, and I do not".

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b7C

So with that in mind, and with the incredible amount of field work that has already been done, it would be a crime to have it go to waste. Again I'm not looking for titles, and by having me on your side I would be able to smoothen any obstacles, that may arise later on, which of course Rob and family are very concerned about, especially the boys.

Joe I can only implore you enough, anything that we can accomplish, can only enhance your book, and furthermore, any deal that you feel is fair, between you and I, will only be going towards [] next trial, and for the legal investigative work, to confirm what I have uncovered.

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b7C

[] will not persue any possible libel charges, later on, because he trusts my judgement in these matters, he knows I would never steer him wrong, he has tremendous faith in me. Once you have all the facts and still see him guilty, we won't complain, because at least we can say, "you had everything".

I sincerely wish you well with this new work Joe, and despite what the future may bring us, I just hope that we could grow to at least be friends.

Respectfully,

[]

b6
b7C

AGREEMENT

This agreement, dated Sept 17, 1986 is made BETWEEN

residing at

AND

residing at

b6
b7C

I.

It is hereby agreed by and between the parties aforesaid, that in consideration of services to be performed by [redacted] hereinafter described, [redacted] hereby transfers and assigns his entire biographical rights (theatrical, literary, etc.) to [redacted] and agrees to assist [redacted] from this day forth in the preparation of a saleable, original motion picture screenplay based upon the life of [redacted]. It is expressly agreed that this transfer and assignment of rights shall be exclusive to [redacted] and that said rights shall not be transferred to any other individual, corporation or other entity, for a period of five years from the date of the signing of this agreement.

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b7C

II.

It is further understood by and between the parties that [redacted] shall be the sole author of said screenplay

and shall have the right of sole exclusive artistic discretion and control in the portrayal and characterization of the subject of the screenplay, subject to the provisions set forth in Article III below.

III.

In consideration of the transfer of exclusive rights as described above to [redacted] said [redacted] agrees to faithfully and fairly depict the events in the life of [redacted] it being understood that [redacted] purpose in entering this agreement is to put the true story of the events leading to his imprisonment before the public. In furtherance of this end and in further consideration for the exclusive rights granted to [redacted] described previously, [redacted] agrees to consult with [redacted] on a regular basis during the preparation of the screenplay and agrees that [redacted] shall review said screenplay prior to [redacted] completion of any sale of said screenplay to any production company. [redacted] further agrees that he will do all in his power as a writer to assure that said production company will adhere to the screenplay as written. It is, however, expressly understood that [redacted] shall be held harmless in the event that said production company shall alter said screenplay after the rights to same are transferred to them by [redacted]

b6
b7C

from
Dm

and approve

IV.

It is further understood that this agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties, and more particularly that the entire consideration supporting this agreement is set forth in Article III above.

V.

This agreement shall be construed in accordance with the Laws of the State of New Jersey.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties set their hands and seals
the day and year set forth above.



JERRY R. GORDNER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires July 29, 1977



WITNESS

SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE
ME THIS 17TH DAY OF
SEPT., 1986



AN ATTORNEY AT LAW
OF THE STATE OF NEW
JERSEY,

The above agreement consists of three typewritten pages, the
first two pages of which have been signed in the left hand
margin by the parties hereto.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription: 12/10/86

1

On December 5, 1986, Special Agent (SA) [redacted] installed a telephone monitoring device on a telephone. [redacted] listed to [redacted] at the request of Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [redacted] in an attempt to monitor any calls received by [redacted] from [redacted] or [redacted] or persons representing themselves as such.

[redacted] executed from FD-472 providing for consensual monitoring on his residence telephone.

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Investigation on: 12/5/86 At: Williamstown, Mass. File 9A-4375 - 4

by: SA [redacted] lsg Date dictated: 12/9/86

b6
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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED mb
INDEXED _____
FILED mb

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/7/86

1

[] date of birth []
[] was advised as to the official identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview. [] then provided the following information:

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She is employed with NBC Productions as the [] is located at 4640 Lankershim Boulevard, 4th floor, Los Angeles, California, telephone (818) 840-4597.

[] advised that two to three months ago (approximately mid-September according to JOE MC GINNIS) a man by the name of [] telephoned [] at her office. [] was upset and told [] that he had exclusive rights to the story of the man in prison. [] went on to say that since he had the exclusive rights, he did not want her working on a mini-series concerning the man in prison. [] advised that she tried to explain to [] that she was not working on a mini-series, as that was not within the purview of her position. [] stated that she told [] that she would look in to the matter and let him know if, in fact, a mini-series was being done on such a topic.

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b7C

[] advised that the actual context of the telephone conversation between [] and herself was very vague in her memory. She stated that the most vivid part of the conversation was the fact that [] appeared to be very upset, and although he did not threaten her specifically, the way he presented himself was enough of a threat to worry her. [] stated that she took [] call more seriously than she would other callers who call in and complain periodically.

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[] advised that [] left a call-back number which had a [] area code. [] could not remember the

Investigation on 12/22/86 at Los Angeles, California File # LA 9A- 8153
by SA [] dkf Date dictated 12/23/86
BS 9A-4375-5

b6
b7C

Continuation of FD-302 of _____, On 12/22/86, Page 2*

entire telephone number and stated that she no longer had it written down.

_____ stated that after terminating the call with _____ she contacted _____ of Mini-Series and _____ of Mini-Series. _____ stated that _____ informed her that a mini-series was, in fact, being done concerning a man who was currently in prison. _____ did not recall exactly if they determined that the subject of the mini-series was, in fact, the same as the subject (man) that _____ had mentioned, but _____ stated that they did determine that the subject matter was identical. _____ went on to say that _____ told her that she would take care of the matter, by passing on the information to JOE MC GINNISS and _____ MC GINNISS is the author of the book covering the material and _____ is the producer of the mini-series project.

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_____ advised that she called _____ back and told him that a project was being done on the material he described. She further advised _____ that it was up to the publishing company, not the individual as to whether or not a book becomes a mini-series. _____ stated that she does not recall _____ response, but she never has heard from him again. _____ did not remember whether or not she gave _____ the names of _____ or _____

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b7C

_____ stated that she heard from MC GINNISS and _____ approximately three to four weeks ago, only after they had received similar telephone calls. _____ stated that during the first telephone call between _____ and herself, _____ told her that he represented _____

_____ advised that she did not believe she would recognize the voice of _____ if she heard it again. She did say it sounded like a "stereo-typed voice from New Jersey."

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At the end of the interview, _____ expressed concern for her safety, should she have to testify in this matter. _____ requested that her identity be protected, unless it was absolutely necessary to reveal it.

_____ did not provide any further information at this time.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 1/7/87

C4

1 TO: SAC, BOSTON (9A-4375)
 2 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (9A-8153) (C-1) (RUC)

3 RE:

4 JOSEPH RALPH MC GINNISS-Victim;
 5 Possible Extorsion Matter;
 6 OO: Boston

7 Re Boston airtel to the Bureau, dated December 10, 1986.

8 Enclosed for receiving office is the original and one
 9 copy of an FD 302 of an interview of which took
 10 place on December 22, 1986. Also, enclosed are the agent's
 11 original interview notes from that interview.

12 For information of Boston was very vague in
 13 her recollection of the telephone call between and
 14 herself which took place in mid-September. advised that
 15 she just basically remembered that the context of the telephone
 16 call was enough of a threat to worry stated during
 17 the interview that there was no specific threat, but the manner
 18 of the telephone call was threatening in nature.

19 As there does not appear to be any further investigation
 20 required of Los Angeles at this time, this case is being placed
 21 in an RUC status.

22 *mc*
 ② - Boston (9A-4375) (Enc. 3) *mc*
 1 - Los Angeles
 LGB/dkf
 (3)

-1*-

9A-4375-6

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| SEARCHED _____ | INDEXED _____ |
| SERIALIZED _____ | FILED _____ |
| JAN 15 1987 | |
| BOSTON | |

Enclosure

(Copy of 302)

Approved: RTB/RL

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

b6
b7Cb6
b7Cb6
b7C

Memorandum



To :

SAC, BOSTON (9A-4375)

Date

2/24/87

From :

SA [REDACTED] (SPRINGFIELD RA)

b6
b7C

Subject :

[REDACTED]
JOSEPH RALPH MC GINNISS-VICTIM;
POSSIBLE EXTORTION MATTER;
(OO:BS)

ReLAairtel to BS, 1/7/87.

On 2/19/87, JOSEPH MCGINNISS was recontacted at his residence, at which time MCGINNISS advised he has received no

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] publication of his book [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] Consensual monitoring equipment was retrieved and was advised of the fact auxillary offices were requested to conduct interviews, which upon conclusion, will be furnished to the AUSA for prosecutive opinion.

Investigation continuing.

2-Boston

MJS:lsg
(2)

7A-4375-7

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED <i>ms</i> | FILED <i>ms</i> |
| FEB 26 1987 | |
| [REDACTED] STON | |

b6
b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/18/87

TO: SAC, BOSTON (9A-4375)(SPRINGFIELD RA)(C-4)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (9A-3624)(RUC)

JOSEPH RALPH MCGINNISS - VICTIM
 POSSIBLE EXTORTION MATTER
 OO: BOSTON

For the information of Boston, [redacted] and [redacted] are primary subjects in a series of approximately 15 bank burglaries, 1 bank robbery and other related matters in at least a 3-state area, [redacted] This matter, [redacted] is still pending although no prosecution is anticipated based on current evidence. Also, these matters are at least two years old and some are due to expire on statute this year.

As a result of his cooperation in the New Jersey murder trial, [redacted]

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race: White
 Sex: Male
 Date of Birth: [redacted]
 Place of Birth: [redacted]
 Height: [redacted]
 Weight: [redacted]
 Eyes: [redacted]
 Hair: [redacted]

② Boston
 2- New Orleans
 (1- 9A-3624)

GRB:dm
 (4)

9A-4375-8

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| MAR 03 1987 | |

per [redacted]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

Springfield R.A.

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NO 9A-3624
GRB:dm

Complexion:
Social Security
Account Number:
Louisiana Driver's
License Number:
Occupation:

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] after being [Redacted]
[Redacted] has returned to his residence, located
[Redacted] is
believed to be employed [Redacted]
located near [Redacted]
[Redacted] is still purported to be involved in planning
criminal activity [Redacted] and recently is alleged to have
[Redacted]
[Redacted] has also allegedly been involved in [Redacted]
[Redacted] activity. Although the supporting information is believed
accurate, [Redacted] has never been convicted [Redacted]
[Redacted] is described as follows:

b6
b7C

Race:
Sex:
Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:
Height:
Weight:
Eyes:
Hair:
Tattoo:

White
Male

Social Security
Account Number:
FBI Number:
Louisiana Driver's
License Number:
Occupation:

Residence:

Telephone:

[Redacted]

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NO 9A-3624
GRB:dm

Wife:
Mother:
Father:
Sister:
Brothers:
Son:



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[redacted] Contact with New Orleans symbol sources close to [redacted] have not indicated anything regarding possible extortion attempts or negative remarks by [redacted] concerning films or books about his case. No intelligence is available to indicate that [redacted] is involved in any activity of this type.

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Contact with the City of Shreveport Police Department, Criminal Intelligence Unit, was negative regarding [redacted] and [redacted]

New Orleans will consider this matter RUC.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of Transcription
1/21/87

1

[redacted] G. P. PUTNAM PUBLISHERS, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, telephone number (212) 576-8825, was contacted and provided the following information to the interviewing Agents:

[redacted] stated that on October 17, 1986, she received a visit at her office from an individual who identified himself as [redacted]. [redacted] provided her with his telephone number as [redacted]. When [redacted] came to her office he indicated that he was interested in seeing her regarding a book that was to be published by their company and written by JOSEPH MC GINNISS. She stated that [redacted] indicated to her that an individual by the name of [redacted] had entered into an agreement, verbal as well as written, regarding the rights of any story about his life. [redacted] stated that he felt that because [redacted] and NBC television are preparing to publish a story regarding [redacted] that he should be involved in some manner in this story. [redacted] stated that [redacted] led her to believe that he [redacted] was in an agreement with [redacted] and felt that no other publication other than the one he was to write could be published. [redacted] felt this way since he had a contract already existing with [redacted] and also he indicated that he was in possession of information which would prove [redacted] innocent.

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On the whole [redacted] stated that the purpose of [redacted] coming to see her was to tell her that he had a contract for the rights of any book about [redacted] and this contract was with [redacted] himself, and also to tell her that he had information which would exonerate [redacted] of the charges with which he was convicted. [redacted] stated that she thereupon told [redacted] that she was not the literary agent for MC GINNISS and she also felt that despite [redacted] alleged contract with [redacted] other books could be published on this topic. [redacted] pressed [redacted] by indicating that it was very important that the information that he had concerning [redacted] be considered in any book written about [redacted].

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Investigation on 1/8/87 at New York, New York File # NY 9A-9612-8

By SAs [redacted] and [redacted] SMC/kaj

Date Dictated 1/14/87

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Continuation of
FD-302 of [REDACTED]

On 1/8/87 Page 2

[REDACTED] stated that she then told [REDACTED] that if he were interested in having anything changed or added to the manuscript of this book he should contact [REDACTED] an attorney with [REDACTED] literary agents for JOSEPH MC GINNESS. She thereupon gave [REDACTED] address and telephone number. Despite this [REDACTED] was insistent that she [REDACTED] review the papers which he had brought to her regarding [REDACTED] [REDACTED] declined to do this and again referred [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] stated that during the interview with [REDACTED] she found him to be extremely respectful however she did not feel that his demeanor and language indicated that he was familiar with the literary publishing field or the legal field surrounding the publication of the book MC GINNESS was currently writing. She further stated that prior to this meeting she recalls she received a telephone call from an editor at G. P. PUTNAM (name unrecalled) telling her that JOSEPH MC GINNESS was quite upset because someone was trying to stop the publication of his current book. At this time she did not have any information concerning [REDACTED] and also, when [REDACTED] appeared at her office, this was the first time she had ever heard his name or seen him.

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b7C

[REDACTED] provided the following description of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height:

Age:

Hair:

Education:

Speaking
Mannerisms:b6
b7C

Continuation of
FD-302 of [redacted]

On 1/8/87 Page 3

b6
b7C

Dress: [redacted]

Subsequent to her conversation with [redacted]
telephonically contacted [redacted] to advise her that she had just
had this conversation with [redacted] and that [redacted] might be
paying her a visit shortly.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of Transcription
1/21/871

[redacted] MORTON L. JANKLOW ASSOCIATES, 598 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, telephone number 421-1700, was contacted by the interviewing Agents and provided the following information:

[redacted] stated that she recalls sometime in September, 1986, she received a telephone call from an individual by the last name of [redacted]. [redacted] stated that she did not directly receive this telephone call but it was a message left for her by her secretary. The message indicated that this individual, [redacted] had information regarding the JOSEPH MC GINNISS book which was being considered for publication at this time. The note also indicated that this information would be of great interest to her and that [redacted] wanted to get in touch with MC GINNISS.

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[redacted] stated that she did not recollect if there was a return telephone number on this message, however, she does recollect relaying this message to her associate, [redacted]. [redacted] stated that she never heard from [redacted] again nor does she recall if [redacted] did in fact return this telephone call.

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[redacted] further stated that on October 17, 1986, she received a telephone call from G. P. PUTNAM COMPANY, specifically from [redacted] indicating that an individual by the name of [redacted] may be coming to visit her regarding the MC GINNISS book. She further stated that [redacted] never did come to her office nor has she ever met or spoken to him.

Investigation on 1/18/87 at New York, New York File # NY 9A-9612-7
By SAs [redacted] and [redacted] Date Dictated 1/14/87
SMC/kaj

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription
1/12/87

1

[] Attorney, MORTON L. JANKLOW ASSOCIATES, 598 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, telephone number (212) 421-1700, was contacted by the interviewing Agent and provided the following information:

[] stated that on September 29, 1986, he recollects that he received a telephone call from an individual by the name of []. His recollection was refreshed by the fact that his secretary maintains a phone log for all incoming phone calls and that her notes reflect this phone call. The phone call came in at approximately 11:30 and [] stated he was not in his office at the time and a message was left for him to call the following number to speak to [] regarding the JOSEPH MC GUINNESS book: The number was (201) 429-7770.

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[] stated that he did in fact contact a RAIMO at this telephone number and [] indicated to him that he represents an individual by the name of [] who has an agreement with a [] and his family granting him the rights to his life story. According to [] intended to write a book concerning [] life and, also according to [] had been previously contacted by JOSEPH MC GUINNESS regarding his life story and [] refused this request.

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b7C

[] stated that [] suggested to him that MC GUINNESS had no legal right to write the book concerning [] life. [] further stated that he had sent a letter to both PUTNAM PUBLISHERS and NBC to notify them that neither of them had any right to publish a book or produce a program regarding [] life.

b6
b7CInvestigation on 1/9/87 at New York, New YorkFile # NY 9A-9612

By SA [] /jak

Date Dictated 1/9/87 *BS 9A-4375-11*b6
b7C

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Continuation of
interview of [redacted]

On 1/9/87

Page 2

According to [redacted] it appeared to him that [redacted] was under the impression that since [redacted] had an agreement with [redacted] to write his life story no other individual or corporation could therefore publish a book concerning this story. He thereupon advised [redacted] that if in fact he did have an agreement with [redacted] regarding his life story this would not preclude any other individual from writing a story on his own. He indicated to [redacted] that there was no restrictions legally on this matter. At this time [redacted] responded, "We certainly are not going to let Joe McGuiness publish this book." [redacted] continued that it appeared to him that [redacted] had the mistaken belief that he had legal rights in preventing the publication of this book. With this in mind [redacted] asked [redacted] the following question, "What are you going to do about this?" at this point [redacted] responded, "We'll do what we have to do."

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[redacted] stated that he did not feel, at this time, that [redacted] was threatening him and continued to question [redacted] regarding what legal action would be taken concerning his current position. [redacted] does not recall specifically what prompted [redacted] to make the following remark, but he does recall this remark being made during the conversation: "Lawyers never have problems, only clients do." Again [redacted] reiterated that he did not feel that this was a threat made to him at this time.

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To the best of his knowledge, this was the full content of the conversation he had with [redacted]. He continued by stating that listening to [redacted] on the phone he could only describe his voice as friendly and he further added that it did not seem to him that [redacted] was an educated individual.

[redacted] further stated that [redacted] seemed to him to be a "street person" and that he exhibited little knowlege of the literary or legal arena. [redacted] also indicated that throughout this conversation [redacted] tone was never threatening and he was always friendly and polite.

NY 9A-9612

Continuation of
interview of [REDACTED]

On 1/9/87

Page 3

Upon further review of his secretary's telephone log
[REDACTED] does recall receiving a call from a [REDACTED] on
October 1, 1986, and the message merely stated that [REDACTED]
wished to speak to him concerning [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED]
he never returned the phone call.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

cy

AIRTEL

DATE: 2/24/87

TO : SAC, BOSTON (9A-4375)

FROM : ADIC, NEW YORK (9A-9612) (RUC) (JTF-1)

SUBJECT:

JOSEPH RALPH MCGINNISS-VICTIM;
POSSIBLE EXTORTION MATTER
(OO:BS)

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b7C

ReBSairtel to the Director, dated 12/10/86.

Enclosed for Boston are the original FD-302s reflecting interviews of the following individuals:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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Also enclosed for Boston are the original notes for these interviews.

Inasmuch as all investigation at NY is completed, this matter is RUC'd.

2-Boston (Encls.)
1-New York

SMC/bef
(4)

9A-4375-12

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| SEARCHED | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED |
| FEB 27 1987 | |
| FBI - BOSTON | |

copy of 302's

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription: 6/10/87

1

On June 9, 1987, Special Agent (SA) [redacted]
[redacted] installed a telephone monitoring device on telephone [redacted]
[redacted] listed to [redacted]
[redacted] at the request of Assistant United
States Attorney (AUSA) [redacted] Springfield,
Massachusetts, in an attempt to monitor any calls received by
[redacted] from [redacted] or
persons representing themselves as such.

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b7C

[redacted] executed FD-472 providing for consensual
monitoring on his residence telephone.

Investigation on: 6/9/87 At: Williamstown, Mass. File 9A-4375 - 13

by: SA [redacted] lsg

Date dictated: 6/10/87

b6
b7C

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

January 11, 1988

J.F. Kennedy Federal Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Honorable Frank L. McNamara, Jr.
United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts
John W. McCormack Post Office
& Courthouse, Room 1107
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Attention: [redacted]
Assistant United States Attorney

Re: [redacted]
Joseph Ralph McGinniss
Victim
Possible Extortion Matter

b6
b7C

Dear Sir:

This is to confirm a conversation on January 6, 1988,
between Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [redacted]
[redacted] Springfield, Massachusetts, and Special Agent (SA)
[redacted] of the Springfield, Massachusetts Resident
Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

b6
b7C

In that conversation, AUSA [redacted] was advised of the
fact Joseph McGinniss had not been telephonically contacted nor
had he received any mail from either [redacted] or [redacted]
in the past few months concerning the publication of a book being
written by McGinniss concerning [redacted]

In view of the above, AUSA [redacted] stated he was of
the opinion no further investigative action was required at this
time by the FBI.

Very truly yours,

JAMES F. AHEARN
Special Agent in Charge

By: [redacted]
Supervisory Special Agent 9-4375

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b7C

2-Addressee
1-Boston

MJS:lsg
(3)



Handwritten signature and date:
1/13/88
Jm

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED EM
INDEXED _____
FILED EM